



NORTHWESTERN ECUADOR **BIRDS GALORE**

(5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS) (Bellavista Lodge (3 nights), lower elevation hotel (1 night))

This five-day trip goes beyond the Birding Bonanza, which it incorporates, to explore deeper into Ecuador's northwest, looking for birds at lower elevations, discovering more of the incredible biodiversity of the western slopes of the Andes. The higher elevations (1500- 2300 meters at and around Bellavista Lodge and Reserve) are complemented by lower elevations, going down to about 500 meters, with different species to admire at all elevations.

Leaving Quito, we pass the Middle of the World monument and then descend a scenic mountain road with forested mountains all the way. Reaching the turn to Bellavista, we climb to the top of the mountain, again with fabulous views, where Bellavista Lodge is perched. Immediately on arrival we will be met by a flurry of hummingbirds... Gorgeted Sunangel, Collared Inca, Booted Rackettail - even the names are a delight! Breakfast is served, and then we take our first guided discovery hike into the forest on our varied trails. Rooms sometimes available on arrival, otherwise available later in the morning.



Quito office: Washington E7-25 & 6 de Diciembre. Office phone: +593-2-223-2313 Mobil phone: +593-9-9949-0891.

info@bellavistacloudforest.com

Lodge & reserve: Tandayapa Valley. Lodge phone: +593-2-361-3447 Mobil phone: +593-9-9416-5868.

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Any birder's heaven, here is your chance to experience some of the avian wonders of our area of northwestern Ecuador: Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan and Toucan Barbet at Bellavista, a myriad hummingbirds such as Violet-tailed Sylph, and Green-crowned Woodnymph at Bellavista and Alambí, the spectacular Cock-of-the-Rock and up to four species of Antpittas and more! And as we explore lower down, so we have chances for Club-winged Manakin, White-whiskered Puffbird, Choco Toucan, and much more.

This package also takes in a day trip out of Bellavista with entry fees and transport included to the Alambi Hummingbird and Tanager Reserve, as well as a visit to the Paz de la Aves Reserve (Cock-of-the-Rock and Antpittas). For this Alambi / Angel Paz day, and the overnight trip down to Pedro Vicente Maldonado, the naturalist / birding guide is exclusive. For services within Bellavista Reserve / Lodge itself, the guide is on a shared basis.



Moreover, we travel down further into the northwest for an overnight at a nice lodge near Pedro Vicente Maldonado, that gives us access to the wonders of Silanche and Milpe reserves.

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DAY TO DAY ITINERARY:

Day One:



06.15 / 06:30h: Departure from your hotel.

Arrival at Bellavista and breakfast.

09.30 h: Our first Bellavista explorations start around the Lodge, and then along some of our trails. The hummingbird feeders will be the first attraction – Buff-winged Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Gorgeted Sunangel, Booted Racket-tail and more. Then we will be looking for

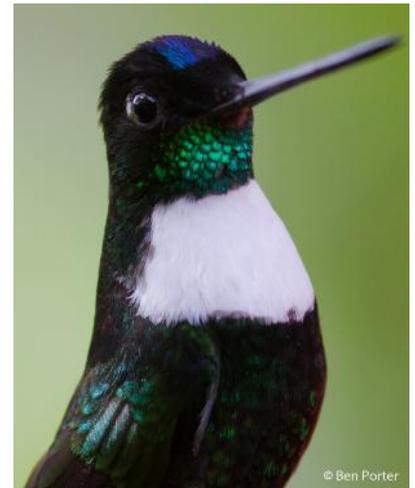
Toucan Barbet, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Masked Trogon, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Grass-green Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager and more.

13.00h: Lunch



15.00h: Further explorations will include forest birding for species like Grey-breasted Woodwren, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Spillman's Tapaculo, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Green and Black Fruiteater.

19.00h: Tonight, expect to see really close up the delightful Olinguito, the first new species of mammal to be discovered in the Americas in the past 35 years, as of 2103!



Overnight: Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge. Meals: B, L, D

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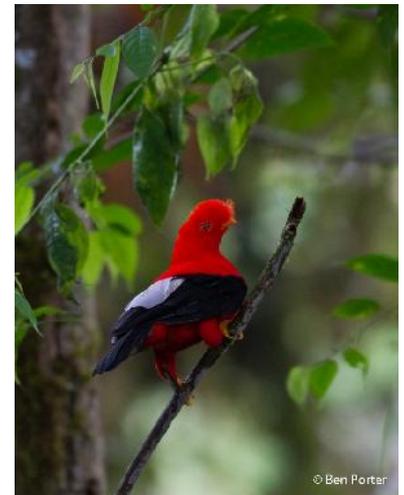
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Day Two:



05.00 a.m.: Depart from Bellavista at 05.00 and drive about 45 minutes to the valley of the San Jose river, where Angel Paz's reserve is located. A short hike takes is down to the lek, and as the day gradually dawns, these remarkable brightly coloured creatures squawk, preen and prance!

Photography options, and a light box breakfast is provided. Then Angel Paz will be the star as he calls out a variety of normally difficult forest birds, in different areas of the nearby forest: Dark-backed Wood-Quail, the difficult Rufous-breasted Antbird, and then the stars of the show for which Angel Paz, the bird whisperer, is famous. Giant Antpitta, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta! A hot breakfast, with the local speciality of "bolones", is served at Angel's house, where birds like Crimson-rumped Toucanet are often seen in the trees.



After a while, we proceed about 45 minutes drive to a hummingbird garden at low elevation in the Tandayapa Valley, which has a true hummingbird spectacle, with birds like White-necked Jacobin, White-bellied Woodstar, and Green-crowned Woodnymph, plus Tanagers, Euphonias, Red-headed Barbet, often Crested Quetzal, and more. Down by the river, we can expect the Torrent Tyrannulet, and the White-capped Dipper, which, as elsewhere in the world, indicates a clean river!



Late afternoon return to Bellavista.

19.00h. Dinner.

Options for other nocturnal mammals: Kinkajou, White-eared Opossum. Sometimes, guides have located a roost of the Common Potoo. Owls? — chances for the Black-and-White Owl.

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Day Three:



05.00H. Today we make an early start to look for Swallow-tailed Nightjar. Then we go to the area where the Tanager Finch, a range-restricted species, whose first ever nest was discovered on land now protected by Bellavista in 1997.

08.00 Breakfast



After

breakfast, our birding explorations continue along the ridge road, for Rusty-winged Barbtail, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Pearled Treerunner, Black-capped Hemispingus, tanager flocks and more.

13.00 Lunch



After lunch we offer an optional visit to a new Hummingbird Garden... Velvet-purple Coronet sound good? Also Orange-breasted Fruiteater, and Streak-capped Treehunter are frequently seen. As the Hummingbird Capital of the world, Bellavista and our immediate area produce an amazing variety of these avian jewels A change in elevation means a different species!

19.00h. Dinner

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Day Four:

06.15: Early morning birding. Chances for Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, White-sided and Masked Flowerpiercer, Montane Woodcreeper, Blackburnian Warbler (when on migration), White-winged Brush-Finch, Glossy-black Thrush, ...



Some

mornings the elusive Tayra (Giant Weasel) comes in to a feeding station right at the Lodge!

13.00h. Lunch

14..30 / 15.00h. Departure for Quito

17:00h /17.30h: Arrive at your Quito hotel

Meals: B, L

ADDED SUGGESTION: For an extra cost, this trip can include, instead of the direct route, travel out to Bellavista along the old Quito-Nono-Mindo road, visiting the high altitude Yanacocha Reserve. Bird highlights include Sword-billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager.

What to bring:

T-shirts or comfortable blouses/shirts

Sweater or fleece for the evenings

Quick drying trousers (blue jeans not recommended)

Lightweight socks

Change of clothes

Sunhat and sunscreen

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Rain poncho (a few available if needed)

Camera

Rubber boots are provided – to size 47 (few pairs in large sizes)

Binoculars recommended (a few available for rent)

Water bottle for hikes

Small daypack for hikes

Flashlight and batteries

Plastic bags to protect camera, etc

What is included:

11 meals starting with breakfast Day One, and finishing after lunch Day Three

3 nights accommodation

Shared naturalist / birding guide service / Private naturalist / birding guide service on the full day to Angel Paz and Alambi.

Access to 700 hectares Reserve

Shared private, round trip transport

Private transport for the day to Angel Paz and Alambi.

Entrance fees

Taxes

What is not included:

International flights

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